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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,698	01/02/2004	William D. Cottrell	8534-001	3826

7590 02/14/2005

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EXAMINER

EDELL, JOSEPH F

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 02/14/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/750,698

Applicant(s)

COTTRELL ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph F Edell

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/12/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: disclosing a printer taken from the group fax machines, copiers, scanners, and combinations thereof; as well as at least one of the posts being adjustable to modify the distance between the first and second posts.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 19 and 36 are objected to because of the following informalities:

- a. claim 19, line 1, "claim 20" should read --claim 15--;
- b. claim 36, line 1, "claim 39" should read --claim 20--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 14 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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Regarding claims 14 and 32, the phrase "said printer is taken from the group of printers, fax machines, copiers, scanners and combinations thereof" is unclear rendering the scope of the claims indefinite. It is unclear whether the "printers" limitation in line 2 of claims 14 and 32 recites a structural element distinct from the original recited "said printer" in line 1 or recites the same structural element.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, and 14, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,640,297 to Labaze in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,347,115 to Sherman et al.

Labaze discloses a vehicle mounted station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, and 14, as best understood, except that the station lacks a printer, as recited in the claims. See Figures 1-4 of Labaze for the teaching that the vehicle mounted station has a vehicle seat 10 (Fig. 1) adapted to receive a headrest (Fig. 1), computer system 44 (Fig. 1) preferably including an LCD screen, keyboard, and tracking ball, an adaptor (Fig. 4) securing the computer system to the vehicle seat, a support surface (Fig. 4) attached to the computer system and adaptor wherein the support surface is a plate 14 (Fig. 4) with a plurality of edges and sidewalls 16, 18, 20

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(Fig. 2) spaced to frictionally receive the computer system, and a means (Fig. 2) for securing the computer system to the support surface including straps 40 (Fig. 2).

Sherman et al. shows a mounted station similar to that of Labaze wherein the mounted station is portable to be mounted in various structures and includes a computer system 14 (Fig. 1) having an LCD screen, keyboard, and printer 16 (Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the vehicle mounted station of Labaze such that the computer system includes a printer, such as the mounted station disclosed in Sherman et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Sherman et al. that the inclusion of a printer in the computer system provides real-time sales record keeping and printing from data processing devices.

7. Claim 12, 13, 15, 16, 20-22, 23, 25, and 28-33, as best understood, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Labaze in view of Sherman et al. as applied to claims 1-5, 7, 10, 11, and 14, as best understood above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,669,285 B1 to Park et al.

Labaze, as modified, discloses a vehicle mounted printer station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 12, 13, 15, 16, 20-22, 23, 25, and 28-33, as best understood, except that the vehicle seat lacks receptacles to receive posts, as recited in the claims. Park et al. shows a vehicle mounted station similar to that of Labaze wherein the vehicle seat 26 (Fig. 1) includes first and second receptacles (column 3, lines 56-58) to receive first and second posts 14 (Fig. 2) of an adaptor 18 (Fig. 2) for a display module 38 (Fig. 2). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having

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ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the vehicle mounted printer station of Labaze such that the vehicle seat has first and second receptacles to receive first and second posts of the adaptor, such as the vehicle mounted station disclosed in Park et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Park et al. that the posts and receptacles configuration provides a tiltable headrest that is vertically adjustable.

8. Claims 6, 8, 9, 24, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Labaze, as modified, in view of Park et al. as applied to claims 12, 13, 15, 20-22, 23, 25, and 28-33, as best understood above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,507,556 to Dixon.

Labaze, as modified, discloses a vehicle mounted printer station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 6, 8, 9, 24, 26, and 27 except that the station lacks adjustability to modify the distance between the posts, as recited in the claims. See Figure 4 of Labaze for the teaching that the back wall is noncontinuous allowing passage of the sleeve 34 (Fig. 4). Dixon shows a vehicle mounted station similar to that of Labaze wherein the mounting plate 21 (Fig. 3) has a front wall (Fig. 3) has reduced height that is less than the height of the side wall (Fig. 3). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the vehicle mounted printer stations of Labaze such that the front wall height is less than the height of each of the side walls and the back wall, such as the vehicle mounted station disclosed in Dixon. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Dixon that the specific mounting plate

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configuration pivoting movement of the station and easy installation and removal of the display screen assembly.

9. Claims 17 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Labaze, as modified, in view of Park et al. as applied to claims 12, 13, 15, 20-22, 23, 25, and 28-33, as best understood above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,022,078 to Chang.

Labaze, as modified, discloses a vehicle mounted printer station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 17 and 34 except that the station lacks adjustability to modify the distance between the posts, as recited in the claims. Chang shows a headrest similar to that of Labaze wherein the distance between the first and second posts 61 (Fig. 4) is adjustable. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the vehicle mounted printer stations of Labaze such that at least one of said posts is adjustable to modify the distance between the first and second posts, such as the headrest disclosed in Chang. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Chang that the adjustable posts of the headrest allows the headrest to accommodate different engaging devices.

10. Claims 18, 19, 35, and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Labaze, as modified, in view of Park et al. as applied to claims 12, 13, 15, 20-22, 23, 25, and 28-33, as best understood above, and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2002/0079732 A1 to Saberan et al.

Labaze, as modified, discloses a vehicle mounted printer station that is basically the same as that recited in claims 18, 19, 35, and 36 except that the station lacks a pivotable post, as recited in the claims. Saberan et al. show a headrest similar to that of Labaze wherein at least one post 16 (Fig. 1) is vertically pivotable. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the vehicle mounted printer stations of Labaze such that at least one of said posts is vertically pivotable, such as the headrest disclosed in Saberan et al. One would have been motivated to make such a modification in view of the suggestion in Saberan et al. that the pivotable posts provide a headrest with easier installation of electronics.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The following patents are cited to further show the state of the art with respect to vehicle mounted stations:

U.S. Pat. No. 3,019,050 to Spielman

U.S. Pat. No. 4,490,842 to Watanabe

U.S. Pat. No. 5,779,305 to Hocking

U.S. Pat. No. 5,835,127 to Booth et al.

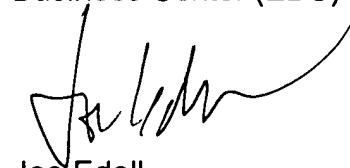
U.S. Pub. No. 20030234550 to Brooks et al. DE Pat. No. 102 47 024 A1 to Donsbach

U.S. Publ. No. 20050012375 to Giasson

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12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joseph F. Edell whose telephone number is (703) 605-1216. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Edell', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Joe Edell
February 9, 2005